

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

704 KAR 5:070, Common Kindergarten Entry Assessment (Final; regulation under separate cover)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.060 and KRS 156.070

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education give final approval to 704 KAR 5:070?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. At its October meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education discussed requiring each district to implement a common kindergarten entry assessment as determined and funded by the Kentucky Department of Education.

Implementation of a common kindergarten entry assessment is a key element of a system of measurement. In its November 2010 final report, the Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood Development and Education recommended that working in cooperation with the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), the Kentucky Department of Education should identify and implement a kindergarten entry assessment that provides information regarding each students' readiness for learning and success in a kindergarten setting. The data from this kindergarten entry assessment will be collected in the student information system to provide a specific set of information to inform continuous improvement of all students from the time they enter school. This data will inform a core set of policy questions that will guide future policy decisions related to early childhood education.

Since the October meeting, the following changes have been made to the regulation:

- The purpose of the entry assessment and how the data will be used has been further clarified.
- The collection and reporting of aggregated data by school district, readiness domain and prior early care setting has been added.
- The waiver request submission of relevant data, establishing validity and reliability, has been clarified.

The regulation will be sent to the board under separate cover and will be ready for consideration of final approval.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Staff recommends the final approval of 704 KAR 5:070. This regulation will bring consistency across the state regarding data on students' readiness for learning and success in kindergarten.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

In order to determine school readiness for early learning to meet the unique learning needs of each student entering school, the state is developing a system of measurement for early learning and school readiness.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

The Local Superintendents Advisory Council will review this regulation at its next meeting and the feedback will be reported at the December meeting.

The Office of Education Accountability has reviewed the regulation and asked for clarification of purpose of the entry assessment and clarification on how the data generated from the assessment will be used.

The Early Childhood Advisory Council's Assessment Sub-Committee is currently reviewing the regulation and will provide feedback to the full council during their December 2011 meeting.

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